

(F1)

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
OF SOUTH AFRICA.

No. 22 / III

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL
From

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No. 12.

SUBJECT

TRISTAN DA CUNHA
Acceptance of Rev. H.A.C. Pooley, for
Missionary work in Tristan by Society for
Propagation of the Gospel.

1927

13 January

PREVIOUS PAPERS

22/108

MINUTES

? Minutes for information

[Signature]
8
27

R.L.
8/2/27

Return for 42. to see.

1/1/27
9/1/27

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS

22/116

No.

22

111

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

No. 12

Downing Street,

18 January, 1927.

RECD. 200
7 FEB 1927
22/111

My Lord,

22/108

With reference to my despatch No.402 of the 7th December, 1926, I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your Ministers that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has accepted the Rev.H.A.C.Pooley, for Missionary work in Tristan da Cunha.

2. Mr.Pooley who is 46 years of age, is an M.A. of the University of Oxford; he was ordained in 1910 and has also studied medicine at Edinburgh University.

3. I understand Mr.Pooley is arranging to proceed to the Island by the boat belonging to Messrs.Andrew Weir and Company, mentioned in my despatch under reference.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient

humble servant,

J. Amery

GOVERNOR GENERAL

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF ATHLONE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

etc.

etc.

etc.

Copy sent to *Ministers*
For *Information*
Minute No. *22/111*
Date *8th February 1927*
(Signed) ATHLONE

"THE LONELY ISLAND."**Two Missionaries for
Tristan da Cunha.**

The Rev. R. A. C. Pooley and Mr. Philip Lindsay, who volunteered for three years' service on Tristan da Cunha, the little island of the South Atlantic, on which live 30 families, comprising about 140 souls, began their journey on January 28. The island is out of touch with the rest of the world, the nearest inhabited land being St. Helena, over 1,300 miles distant. The only communication which the inhabitants have with their fellow creatures is on the rare occasion when a vessel calls, which, at the most, is only once a year. Wireless has been tried, but without success, as the islanders have no means of recharging their accumulators.

The two missionaries, who are both unmarried, come from Liverpool, and are being sent out under the auspices of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Their life for the next three years will be one of isolation with hardships and privations, making the conditions scarcely any better than those of a prison.

Mr. Pooley very generously offered his services without remuneration. The good knowledge of medicine which he possesses will be most useful and he is provided with medical appliances and stores. Observations for the Meteorological Department are also being taken by him, and he has been supplied with the necessary instruments. He will be primarily responsible for the spiritual welfare of the islanders, and will also look after their general social life, their health, the education of their children, and the general organisation of the community.

Care of Young People.

Mr. Lindsay, who has temporarily given up his training for Ordination in order to serve the islanders, will make the care of the young people his special duty. He will teach in the school and superintend the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts Association has supplied Scouts' clothing, etc.

The missionaries sailed for Durban by the Union-Castle liner Edinburgh Castle, and from thence they will proceed by one of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co.'s steamers, which will make a special call at Tristan da Cunha on her voyage to South America.

The inhabitants of the island are largely dependent on the outside world for food and entirely dependent for clothes. Their food consists mostly of fish, eggs and potatoes. Many well-wishers have taken the present opportunity to send out gifts consisting of parcels of food and clothing and a number of firms have provided goods of various kinds, such as paints, tools, seeds, sailcloth, etc. The islanders make their little boats out of canvas and for this reason packages sent to the island have to be small and under 80 lbs. in weight so that when the cases are being transhipped the canvas boats may be able to carry the weight. Heavy packages, of course, would go right through the boats.

Big Stores Consignment.

Among the stores which the Union Castle Company is carrying free of freight will be H.M. The King's gift of one ton of flour. Stores of all descriptions are being taken from cases of tea to needles and pins. The Crown Agents for the Colonies have been responsible for packing the main consignment, which they have done free of charge, and Mr. Douglas M. Gane of Gray's Inn, who has always taken a great interest in the islanders, has collected supplies.

Mr. H. M. Rogers was the last missionary in the island and it is about two years since he and his devoted wife returned to England. Mr. Rogers had always wished to go back to his friends on Tristan da Cunha, but last year he was overtaken by pneumonia from which he died, his widow being left with two little children. Mrs. Rogers has written a book on Tristan da Cunha called "The Lonely Island." It gives an extremely interesting account of life there and of the geography of the place.

Among the varied Articles to which the Union Castle Line is generously giving conveyance are consignments of tools, calico, clothing, nails and provisions of all sorts; soap, boots and confectionery, tea, sugar, biscuits, candles, saltpetre, rope, matches, agricultural implements, paints, books, pencils and slates, salt and timber.

*File with
notes*